



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
NICOLE PARRA
Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

March 30, 2007

Hello Friends,

Over the last couple of weeks, I have had enormous opportunities to promote the interests of the Great Central Valley across the State, and even the Nation. With the legislative session beginning to pick up in Sacramento, to a bi-partisan trip with **California Legislative Leaders** to Washington DC, and then back to the **District** for the weekends, I've been able to meet with numerous individuals on issues of importance to my district, and more importantly the people therein.

These meetings are critical to my ongoing work in support of the quality of life in the 30th Assembly District, and I assure you the input received will be vocalized in the weeks and months to come.

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What's Happening in Sacramento

This year's State budget negotiations are beginning in the State Capitol. With a fairly sizable shortfall forecasted by the **Department of Finance** and **Legislative Analyst**, it will be a challenging year for legislators. However, I am committed to promoting the needs of the Valley, and assure your voice will be heard in Sacramento, as we move forward in the budget process.

A major component of this year's budget cycle will be the allocation of bond money to various regions of the State. One success story for the 30th Assembly District is the **\$71.6 million** allocated to make significant improvement to **Highway 198**. As the budget talks continue, I will vocalize the need for additional investment around the region.

State Auditor Elaine Howell recently issued an audit of the California home to school transportation program. Many families and children in rural areas, especially in my district, are heavily dependent on school buses for transportation to and from school. This is an essential service, and with the recent issuance of this audit report, I intend to work toward providing enhanced home-to-school services for the children of the 30th Assembly District. I am pleased the **State Auditor met with local superintendents to review the audit I requested last year**. You can check out the audit at www.bsa.ca.gov/reports/summary.php?id=525

Dates of notes under the Dome. The State Legislature is **adjourned for recess** from March 29 and reconvening on April 9. The last day for **policy committees** to hear and report **fiscal bills** for

referral to fiscal committees is April 27.

My Legislative Highlights

In March, I made a visit to **Washington, D.C.** to lobby the Bush Administration and Congress for more federal funds for California and to learn about the status of federal legislation and programs that impact our state. I joined a **bi-partisan delegation** of more than 30 Assembly Members on Capitol Hill. In addition to a meeting with White House officials, the delegation talked with California's two U.S. Senators, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and met with the U.S. Representatives from California who serve on the House Appropriations Committee. We also held meetings with key Congressional leaders on immigration, energy, commerce, and health care.

This year, **I introduced legislation (AB 669)** for the design and construction of a transportation structure in Fresno County on State Highway Route 269 and Los Gatos Creek north of the town of **Huron**. This bill would require the Department of Water Resources to convey real property to the Department of Transportation (CalTrans) needed for the project. As a result, my office recently met with CalTrans officials. With the funding in place through Fresno County Measure "C" and additional state funding, I'll be moving the legislation to ensure CalTrans is able to deliver the project in a timely manner.

I am proud to note that my bill targeting drunk drivers has been receiving positive attention. With inspiration from local **Bakersfield resident Carla Pearson**, I introduced **AB 808**, which would require driver's license applicants to sign a statement acknowledging the dangers of drunk driving. This important public safety measure has enjoyed a lot of local media coverage.

Constituents Visit Sacramento

I have been fortunate to meet so many wonderful people and organizations making a difference in the 30th Assembly District and throughout the State. The following are just a few highlights of the fantastic people I want you to know:

The **Girl Scouts Council of California** held their annual advocacy trip recently, and I was pleased to be invited as the keynote speaker for their kickoff reception at the California Museum for History, Women, and the Arts. The group was comprised of Girl Scout's from around the State, and I was impressed with their stature and promise as emerging leaders for our great state. For more information, please visit <http://www.girlscouts.org>

Sequoia Regional Leadership Group, which is comprised of community and business leaders from cities and towns within Tulare county, attended a leadership seminar in Sacramento recently. The group invited me to speak with them regarding issues of importance to valley communities, the California Partnership, water quality and availability, and the general business climate. The entire group was very knowledgeable on issues of importance, and I was pleased to find their values closely aligned with my own in terms of priorities to be addressed in the current legislative session.

Crime Victims United of California is an organization which advocates for victims of crime, who

are often unable to participate in the judicial process for various reasons. Over the years my relationship with this organization, and more specifically with its founder, **Harriet Salarno**, has grown into more of a friendship, and I pledged my continued support for the victims of crime across our State.

California County Law Librarians, and more specifically those from Fresno, Kern and Tulare Counties, visited my office in Sacramento to ask for my support of stable funding for this great informational resource for the counties of the Central Valley. They also shared with me an online application, which I am now passing on to you in hopes that it may help those who have legal matters pending. Please visit www.publiclawlibrary.org to find out how you can inform yourself on State law, and ensure your rights are at the forefront of any legal activities you may be involved in.

RJ Neutra Elementary School, which has the highest API ranking in Kings County, visited the Capitol this week. It makes me proud to know students in Kings County are performing so successfully. The visit was very enjoyable, and included a presentation of the resolution commemorating the academic successes of the school, and the 33 years of service by **Mrs. Gloria Pettigrew**, who will be retiring from teaching at the end of the school year.

In the District

The impact of the Freeze continues to be felt throughout the Valley. I recently joined Community Action Partnership of Kern in their kick-off for the Freeze Relief efforts. I have met with several families who told me their stories of the economic struggles they are now facing. I will continue to help all victims of the freeze that are facing economic constraints, and work with the appropriate state agencies to continue to put pressure on the federal government to provide us with more relief. **On April 1st I will join Community Action Partnership** once again and participate in an event at **El Mercado Latino at 1 p.m.** For more information on how you can be a part of this effort, please contact **Michal Yniguez at 661-336-5236.**

On March 30, **I also joined 94.1 FM's very own Romeo, and former NFL football star Dameane Douglas**, in Bakersfield to raise funds for Kern County victims of the freeze. I am constantly amazed at how warm and generous the residents of the 30th Assembly District are in times of need.

I had a chance to visit the Kings County jail with **Sheriff Chris Jordan, Kings County Chief Administration Officer Larry Spikes**, and State Department of Corrections Secretary James Tilton to discuss critical prison issues. While in Kings County, I had the pleasure of meeting with hundreds of students at **Corcoran High School**. The students participated in an Annual Teen Summit aimed at stopping violence on campus and in the community. I commend these students for their commitment to improving safety and focusing on school.

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to

attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov

Interns Wanted

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov.

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